

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested in light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Status

Claims 1-14 are pending in the Instant Application.

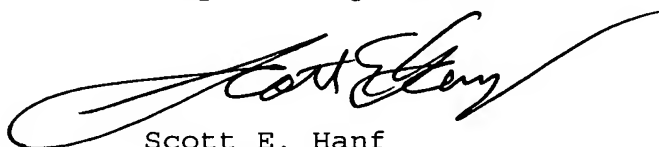
Claims 1-14 have been amended to comply with US patent practice, to improve readability, and eliminate any improper multiple dependent claims.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests an early Notice of Allowance in this application.

Kindly add the amended claims into the application prior to calculation of fees.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott E. Hanf", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Scott E. Hanf
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 38,906

Customer No. 29494
Robert H. Hammer III, P.C.
3121 Springbank Lane
Suite I
Charlotte, NC 28226
Telephone: 704-927-0400
Facsimile: 704-927-0485

E:\FIRMDOCS\2060\002\PrelimAmendment.doc